Illustration from "Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper" of September 7, 1878, showing finish line scene as four-oared crews swept past the grandstand during race in August regatta on the Passaic. A few decades later (below), yachts continued to moor off boathouse flanked by two industrial buildings near the Center Street Bridge.

their Sunday School best, made their way to the park as soon as Sunday dinner was over, usually accompanied by their elders. Often a picnic supper was carried in a small neat box (remember it was Sunday).

Family picnics are a favorite memory of Howard R. Garis, the "Explorer" of The Newark News. These were most popular in horsecar days, or immediately following when folk rode those delightfully swaying open-air Summer trolleys, with the cross-seats, and only a long wooden bar on one side to keep the passengers in.

The amusement parks drew family and group picnics all Summer long. Electric Park in Vailsburg was so called because it had a large fountain, brilliant at night with electric lights. A bicycle racing track, also in Vailsburg, was another attraction. The same park had been originally "Shuetzen Park" or "Shooting Park," operated in the '70s and '80s by Alex Volney for the German "Shuetzen Bunden" or rifle clubs. Athletic games and a running track were there for the young fellows, and a dancing pavilion as well.

THERE were many bicycle clubs, the Alpine Wheelmen, the Atlanta Wheelmen, the Bay View Wheelmen, and several others. They took part in the track races, the first of which took place at the Waverly Fair ground, now the Weequahic Park track. Another track was in Clifton. Road races were scheduled by the clubs, too. One, held each Memorial Day from 1889 to 1908, was over a 25-mile course, called "the Irvington-Millburn." As many as 20,000 men, women and children assembled along the highway to watch, while lemonade and sandwich men pushed their way about among the buggies, bicycles, wagons and stages that lined the course.

On Summer nights boys and girls rode out on bicycles together. River road was followed to the picnic ground at Bend View Inn. Mr. Garis used to take his girl out there on a "bicycle built for two," dressed in what he called a "nifty bicycle suit, with a cap to match." The girl had a gay suit also, and wore a veil! Of course the young couples stopped at the ice cream parlors in town on the return.

Among the surprising things to be found in old Newark newspapers is the fact that going to ice cream parlors was a popular amusement as early as 1820, when Joseph Hedden opened his flower garden on the corner of Fair and Mulberry streets for the serving of ice cream and soda water, Congress, Saratoga and Ballston waters, spruce beer, etc. Three years later, a 25-cent ticket entitled a gentleman and his lady to refreshments and a chance to enjoy the musical entertainments and fireworks Mr. Hedden provided. Alas, he ventured too much, and was taken over by his creditors in 1824!

The position of Newark on the Passaic and on the Morris Canal made excursion boat trips popular even 100 years ago. When the Morris Canal was new the packet boat "Maria Colden" ran excursions to Passaic every day except Sunday, and Coney Island excursions were run on the Steamer Passaic in the 1840s. In the '60s The Daily Advertiser carried advertisements for the Steamer Thomas P. Way, "grand afternoon trip to Long Branch; Grand Musical Excursion around Staten Island; Coney Island Excursions Wednesday and Saturday, leaving the wharf at the foot of Center street at 1:30."

The excursions went from Newark up the Hudson to Newburgh too, where, once in the '50s, a group of Newarkers, emerging full of enthusiasm from a tavern, engaged in a brawl with Newburghers, written up in both the Newark and Newburgh papers of the time!

Among the excursion steamers on the Passaic mingled the yachts, rowboats and canoes from a dozen boating clubs that flourished in the later 1800s. The Eureka, the Passaic Boat Club, the Institute Boat Club, Triton Boat Club and the Nereids all had their houses along the river and their crews of oarsmen who spent hours practicing to compete in the big rowing regattas. About 1866 the first great rowing race was held, and the annual regattas of the Passaic River Amateur Rowing Association, begun in 1875, continued 27 years.

Knee pants and long black stockings were part of attire of boy campers shown in this photograph taken in the Summer of 1886 at Camp Wawayanda.

Essex Camera Club pictured by William H. Broadwell during 1906 outing to Feltville, the "deserted village," now part of Watchung Reservation.

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In the Good Old Summertime

People didn't have to go far for an outing; city parks, lakes and nearby country served holidayers and a shore trip was a big event

BY MIRIAM STUDLEY
Principal New Jersey History Librarian, Newark Public Library

NEWARK was a pleasant place in Summer in the old days before the city became so crowded, and while the Passaic River was still a clear and shady stream.

In those times many people never thought of going away for long holidays, but took their recreation in occasional days off during the warmest weather. Vacations were not the general thing in business and industry that they are today, and the womenfolk, lacking electric washing machines, pressure cookers and other labor-saving devices, spent the hot Summer days in endless washing, ironing and canning, with an occasional picnic, buggy ride, or spell of visiting with relatives.

It took hours of hot work over the flat irons to keep up with the laundry when a Summer outing costume for a proper girl consisted of a starched frilly blouse, pleated linen skirt seven yards around, and two ruffled petticoats.

The old diary of Betsy Mulford Crane in the Newark Library chronicles Summer life in the 1820s when many people hereabouts lived on farms. "Mowing frolics," quilting parties, trips by wagon to go cherrying, or blackberrying, or fishing at distant points broke the routine of family life, while it seemed as if every Summer for long periods, one or more of the younger members were "in full bloom with the measles." Always there seemed to be aunts, uncles or cousins from other neighborhoods coming and going on short visits of a few days each.

Tennis became popular at Branch Brook Park in 1901 when 37 courts were opened to public. Additional attractions were band concerts, playfields.

AS Newark began to fill up with rows of compact dwellings, families formed the habit of going on picnics to the thick woodlands that still were found in Roseville, and in Forest Hill and Woodside. The young folks went on long walks on Sundays or in the evenings, in the earliest days along High street, when was known in part as "Lover's Lane," and then as the city developed, along the old Bloomfield road, Murphy's lane, the River road, and other old dirt roads leading to Clinton Township or the Oranges.

Edward S. Rankin tells about footing it as a young boy with several other youngsters on all-day picnics to Lyons Farms, then a country neighborhood. The horse cars ran only to Clinton and Elizabeth avenues at the time, so from there on they walked the dusty road, to cut cattails for punk for the Fourth of July in the swamp which is now Weequahic Lake. Above the swamp was the farm house of the first Dr. William R. Ward, Mr. Rankin's uncle, and on his property was Long Hill, another objective for walks and picnics among the giant chestnut trees and woodland flowers.

Any one except a confirmed hiker today may be amazed at the long distances young folks walked for pleasure. The more hardy [illegible] thought noth[illegible] from downtown to Bathgate's Woods in Roseville and back, to Great Notch or Verona Lake, or even a round-trip hike to Eagle Rock, with a pocket full of lunch, and perhaps, in another pocket, an old whisky flask filled with coffee.

The more sedentary folk went for long country drives with horses and buggies, or if the whole family went, in "a surrey with a fringe on top." The buggy rides followed the winding roads along the Passaic out to Singac and Troy Hills or along the Rahway River in what is now the South Mountain Reservation.

STAGES were used for the big Sunday school picnics to Bird's Woods to Roseville Park or to Swinefield Bridge, and William F. Cone, Newark photographer, relates how in boyhood days he and other children enjoyed the long drive from his church in Wickliffe street to the lovely woodland near the waterfalls on Second River. Here was a fascinating old mill for the boys to explore, while shoebox lunches were opened by mothers and teachers and spread out on rude tables, and little children played on swings.

When in the late '90s Branch Brook Park was developed, and band concerts were held every Sunday afternoon near the lake, girls in white dresses and big hairribbons and small boys in

Nineteenth Century artist's sketch of the Hudson from Elysian Fields, a popular amusement resort in Hoboken, frequented by Newarkers of the 1850s.

FOURTH

Annual Report

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